

shall be made public, in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of all the Members of the Committee at a business meeting called for the purpose of making such a determination.

DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS

Rule 14. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified in, or who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at, an open Committee or Subcommittee hearing tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation may file with the Committee for its consideration and action a sworn statement of facts relevant to such testimony or evidence.

BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

Rule 15. Any meeting or hearing by the Committee or any Subcommittee which is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by web, television, radio broadcast, or still photography. Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating, vision, and hearing of Members and staff on the dais or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 16. These rules may be amended only by vote of a majority of all the Members of the Committee in a business meeting of the Committee: Provided, that no vote may be taken on any proposed amendment unless such amendment is reproduced in full in the Committee agenda for such meeting at least three days in advance of such meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in times of conflict and peace, nations should discuss and resolve disputes. We cannot expect to achieve peace without effort and dialogue. The post of Ambassador to the United Nations is a position where engagement is of the utmost importance. Throughout Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield's 35-year tenure at the State Department, under both Republicans and Democrats, she developed a long track record of engaging diplomatically with other countries through a very unique approach. Based on Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield's career, I believe she will tackle international challenges and engage with friends and adversaries, alike, and I support her nomination.

CONFIRMATION OF THOMAS J. VILSACK

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, today, I voted to oppose the confirmation of Tom Vilsack as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. While I appreciate Mr. Vilsack's willingness to again serve in this capacity after holding this same role in President Obama's administration, his stance on USDA's assistance programs and climate change give me pause. During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Vilsack stated one of his main priorities is expanding eligibility for food stamps to people not necessarily in need. Mr. Vilsack's willingness to expand eligibility for these programs will require more Fed-

eral spending and add to the national debt.

Perhaps even more concerning is Mr. Vilsack's willingness to use his position at USDA to further President Biden's aggressive climate change agenda, which will undoubtedly lead to more regulations on the agriculture industry. In his confirmation hearing, Mr. Vilsack stated, "If confirmed, USDA will lead the federal government in . . . investing in renewable energy . . . embracing sustainable and regenerative practices that enhance soil health . . . and delivering science-based solutions to help mitigate and reduce climate change." Additionally, he said, "I share the president's vision of a net-zero emission opportunity for U.S. agriculture . . ." Cumbersome regulations based on climate alarmism will inevitably lead to higher food prices for consumers. Farmers should be able to exercise their own sound judgement and common sense without burdensome Federal regulations. For these reasons, I opposed his confirmation.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0D-21. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 14-59 of December 11, 2014.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0D-21

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(B)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14-59.

Date: December 11, 2014.

Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On December 11, 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 14-59 of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) of ten (10) CH-47D Model Chinook Helicopters to include twenty-three (23) T55-GA-714A Engines (20 installed and 3 spares), twelve (12) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (10 installed and 2 spares), twelve (12) AN/ARC-220 High Frequency (HF) Radios, twelve (12) AN/ARC-186 Very High Frequency (VHF) AM/FM Radios, twelve (12) AN/ARC-164 Ultra High Frequency (UHF)-AM, twelve (12) AN/ARN 123 VOR ILS Marker Beacons, twelve (12) AN/ARN-89 or AN/ARN-149 Direction Finder Sets, twelve (12) AN/ASN-128 Doppler/Global Positioning System Navigation Sets, twelve (12) AN/ARC-201D or AN/ARC-201E VHF FM Homing Radios, twelve (12) AN/APX-118 Transponders, three (3) AN/APX-118A Transponders, twelve (12) AN/APR-39A(V) Radar Signal Detecting Sets, mission equipment, communication and navigation equipment, Maintenance Work Orders/Engineering Change Proposals (MWO/ECPs), aircraft hardware and software support, repair and return, spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, support equipment, minor modifications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor technical and engineering support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost was \$150 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$57.2 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of eight (8) T55-GA-714A engines in support of Greece's CH-47D helicopter fleet. The total cost of the new MDE articles is \$14 million. The total MDE value increases to \$71.2 million. The total estimated cost increases to \$164 million.

(iv) Significance: The Hellenic Army General Staff plans to use these helicopters for firefighting, search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian support, counter-terrorism, and combat operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The statement contained in Congressional certification transmittal number 14-59 applies to the MDE items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 5, 2021.

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